

## National Baptist Convention, Unincorporated, Opens in Little Rock, Ark.,

### ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS ARE BROKEN THIS YEAR

Enthusiasm at Its Height—"Star-Spangled Banner" Sung During Patriotic Demonstration by Over 3,000 Voices.

PRESIDENT JONES' ADDRESS WAS A MASTER PIECE AND ENJOYED.

Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 4. Never in the history of Negro Baptist workers was there more spiritual enthusiasm injected into a meeting than was shown at the opening of the thirty-eighth annual convention in session here today. A beautiful sitting and a patriotic demonstration was the result of the opening services. The Star-Spangled Banner, sung by a chorus of more than two thousand five hundred messengers and representatives from the Baptist Churches throughout the United States. A chorus of two hundred voices led the singing. American flags were waving and the vast audience sang until it seemed as though the roof of the house was being lifted. This was followed by America, after which the chairman of the local committee in an eloquent address told of Little Rock's aim and purpose in its effort to entertain the largest gathering of denominational workers in the United States and then surrendered the gavel to Edward P. Jones, D. D., of Vicksburg, Miss., who declared that the thirty-eighth annual session had come to order. The meeting at once went into temporary organization and the committees on enrollment and finance which were named at the executive committee meeting at Alexandria, La., were announced and at once retired. These workers are to be in the city five days and the grave matters coming before them will be education, which takes in their Theological and Training School, which has been purchased at Nashville, said to be worth over fifty thousand dollars. It is the purpose to raise at least ten thousand dollars in this session, so that the school property will be opened in October. Foreign Missions, Home Missions and State Missions will be the other themes up for consideration. Each of the boards co-operating with the convention is to make its report at this session. The president made his annual address today. In it he covered everything facing his people at this peculiar crisis. It was a masterly effort and was delivered in a clear tone. Dr. Jones said in part:

"Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, blessed by thy God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings, in heavenly places in Christ. According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." Ephesians 1:2-4.

"Twelve months ago after much consideration, and after we had enjoyed the princely entertainment accorded us by the people of Atlanta, led on by Dr. E. R. Carter, you adjourned to meet here in this, the 'City of Roses,' where violets, daisies, chrysanthemums and 'forget-me-nots' do not die, but live on, gathering strength from the waters of yonder rolling Arkansas. This is a city ideal in its surroundings, with fertile valleys, and smiling hillsides and an occasional breath of mountain air stinging and overdoing it founders in all that makes a busy thriving community. Great is Little Rock.

Dr. J. P. Robinson, J. B. Ladell, R. H. Cook, D. B. Gaines, R. E. Porter and many others live and add by their work, not only to the spiritual uplift of the city, but send everywhere throughout the state and nation an influence condemnatory of wrong and wickedness. They are voices in the wilderness crying aloud, 'Prepare you the way of the Lord make his paths straight.' You have come from every part of this country to make sure the everlasting truths, which 2000 years ago shook the plains of Judea and mountains of Galilee, lulled the mad-dened storm into a zephyr, and made ten thousand furious devils seek the slimy bottom of the deep as their habitat, thus emphasizing that man made in God's image is only following the divine or walking in the King's highway when in the consciousness of right he furrows the heart and plants therein not thorns of hate, but principles of love. Man falters, falls and despairs when selfishness conjures the laughter and happiness of his soul, and fashions him into the service of a privileged few to the neglect of the lowly. The real man, the true man, sees no distinction, but goes forth to the uplift, the reclaim, and in the pathway of the dependent and hopeless brightly beams a ray of mercy, that minimizes in difference and magnifies brotherhood. Since last we met, at times, as your servant, I have met the sunshine and the rain, the hopeful and the hopeless, the bright and the dim, the visionist and the blind, the truthful and the false, the shallow and the deep, the honest and the dishonest, the 'know all' and the 'know nothing.' At times I followed the old Spanish trail, as it widens from the foot hills of Alabama and grows grey with the frost of centuries.

National Baptist Convention. When this was demurred out of court, they took an appeal which lays dormant and unprosecuted.

Without sanction but seeking to control the only asset of the denomination, and thus take from our Publishing Board that which you entrust to them and for which they have shown unsurpassed ability to manage, the majority of the Baptists in America, then and now denounce the usurpation, and therefore to be submitted by our esteemed chairman, Dr. C. H. Clark, and our beloved venerable Secretary, Dr. R. H. Boyd, will add emphasis to my statement, by showing an increase in business each year since they went off.

The ideals of this Board are in perfect union with this Convention, and it is doing religious, benevolent and constructive work commendable and enduring, and my opinion has been strengthened as more and more I study its work. A National Convention great and expansive in its information and inspiration is grievously handicapped if to the people it cannot point to racial development, training and refinement. To these elements this convention and our Board thank God take courage and go on. The hand that seeks to destroy this mammoth plant and idly send abroad its employees, when yesterday from every hill top and valley it was raised into God in declaring all is well, cannot again become a power in the province of righteousness without making amends. Might never-

### GALA TIME LABOR DAY

At Hadley Park-- Ten Thousand People Present

SPLENDID PROGRAM FEATURE

Labor Day was celebrated at Hadley Park, Monday with more than ten thousand people in attendance. Mr. A. N. Johnson, president of the Board of Trade presided and made introductory remarks. Lieut. Coon, commanding officer of the student soldiers at Fisk University spoke in high terms of the progress made by the boys in this care. He said that he felt sure the Negro soldiers would come up to the standard set, and that they had always done so. The men in training had marched through

such a good showing among the Negro workers.

Davis School band, both male and female, furnished music. A costumed march of children, representing soldiers, Red Cross nurses, states and farmerettes, was a special feature of the program. The Goddess of Liberty and patriotic drills, together with the singing of patriotic songs, were notable features. Prizes were awarded the best developed baby, the second best and the most popular baby on the grounds. A prize was also given J. P. Porter and wife for having the largest number of children under 16. There are seven children under 16 in this family. The first-prize baby weighed 44 pounds at eight months, while the second-prize baby weighed 21 pounds at five.

Louise Bostic recited Dunbar's "Colored Soldier," and "What Will you do, Uncle Sammie?"

Judge J. Madison Wells delivered the principal address and said in part:

"I think the progress you have made is wonderful. I do not believe there is any other race that has made the same progress under like circumstances. You have a long way to come, however. Adhere to the marriage vows; do not be so quick to be divorced; make every wayward girl or boy your boy or your girl. I tell you I think it is a crime, an outrage, to put in prison for life the parent of a small child and turn that child out upon the streets in poverty. There will be no real child welfare

### NEARLY \$200,000 WORTH OF BUSINESS REPORTED

By Secretary Boyd of the National Baptist Publishing Board--Fiscal Year Just Ended Shows \$10,000 Increase.

SACRIFICE OF LABORERS TO FIGHT HUNS HAS BEEN GREAT HOLDBACK

Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 13th-- Nearly two hundred thousand dollars worth of business was reported by Rev. R. B. Boyd, D. D., the secretary of the National Baptist Publishing Board in his annual report read before the National Baptist Convention in session in this city today. It was an increase of more than ten thousand dollars over the volume of business done for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1917. It has been considered by all leaders in the ranks of National Baptist Publishing Board's plant at Nashville has attracted more attention than any other enterprise conducted by the religious side of the convention. It is a plant employing a large number of young men and women who do skilled labor.

Dr. Boyd in making his report not only told of the work done for the past year, giving the millions of copies of periodicals distributed and the hundreds of thousands of letters received and answered but he went into the details and the constructive side of the institution. The report was in pamphlet form and it showed that within twenty-one years enough Sunday School literature and religious tracts with denominational books had been distributed to make Baptists, if literature would make them, out of every member of the race. In the report this plant akin to the Baptist forest, as he is proclaimed

by all, gave his denomination a peep into the inside of the art preservative, as the printers term it, letting them look in the printing arena, letting them see their people operating the most intricate machinery that has been placed on the market for the publishers and printers. He touched upon the war conditions and showed that the institution he had the honor to preside over was not only serving the denomination and the race, but had contributed their bit towards sending men into the army to battle for world's democracy. He swept the Convention off its feet when he told them of the sacrifice the institution had made to help win the war. "Our service flag hangs in the main office and by this time, perhaps, has twenty-two stars. We are not only fighting sin and Satan, but we are fighting the Huns and Persians. With God's help we are going to win both battles." Dr. Boyd showed the total receipts and disbursements of the institution in twenty-one years to be \$2,809,932.97; number of letters received and answered in twenty-one years 4,597,325; number of periodicals sent to the various Sunday schools in twenty-one years 159,756,688. Before he made his report, chairman of the Board, Rev. C. H. Clark, D. D., who has served for twenty-one years, made a talk and then presented Dr. Boyd to the Convention.

## The Star-Spangled Banner.



O! Say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thro' the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there;

CHORUS.

'Tis the star-spangled banner, O! long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

On the shore, dimly seen thro' the mists of the deep,  
Where the foes' haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream;

O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved homes and war's desolation;  
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land  
Praise the pow'r that has made and preserved us a nation,  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust."

—FRANCIS SCOTT KEY.

or made right, truth maketh error ashamed. It remains for you after thirty-five years of oratory and promise to give shape and form to a National Theological Seminary and Training School. It stands yonder awaiting only your willingness to clear the way, that souls may be fixed, hearts edified and tongues simplified. The gospel must be preached, a trained ministry should be your contribution to the world's present and future evangelism. Will you heed the cause or follow the path of ease? With confidence in you and hope that you are ready to cross the Rubicon, a recommendation follows, which I hope you will approve.

In keeping with your expressed command your special committee went to Washington and took up with the Executive Secretary of the Council of Federated Churches of America, the appointment of Chaplains for the Army. I am under many obligations to Dr. Henry Allen Boyd of Nashville, Dr. J. C. Austin of Pittsburgh, Dr. H. T. S. Messer of Pittsburgh, Dr. R. H. Balling of Norfolk, Va., and Dr. E. W. Moore of Columbus, Ohio; each of whom forsook their immediate duties

the streets from Fisk University to the park singing patriotic songs and aroused the crowds with whom they came in contact. They drilled, marched and played games as worked in their daily training.

The president of the Board of Trade turned the program over to the welfare committee of the Negro Council of defense. Mrs. Lyon Childress, chairman of the welfare committee of the white Council of Defense was present and talked at length. She pledged herself to assist in any way possible the efforts of the Negro workers. Elizabeth Kelly, who is the Negro welfare chairman, presided and read the message of the President of the United States in favor of the great child welfare celebration to be held all over the country.

Dr. M. E. Coleman made a stirring talk and asserted that the Negro women would not be satisfied until a home had been secured for delinquent girls of the race. Dr. Coleman is the chairman of the Negro Council of Defense. Mrs. J. F. Pierce, one of the most earnest war workers among the Negro people, gave a history of the work in hand and paid tribute to the women who are making

until we get the idea of the old-time home, where the mother and father sit and read the Bible on the front porch and the children come to be engaged in innocent and harmless play and games.

In conclusion Judge Wells stated that he was in favor of the juvenile court, and that he loved the black boy as well as the white boy, and was a judge of them both.

Many of the employees of the Government powder plant arrived in the city early in the day. The streets were crowded, as were the movies during the day. Greenwood park was largely attended. Special music and all attractions running gave entertainment to the throngs that went out during the day.

### FIRESIDE SCHOOL.

During the past weeks, Mrs. M. F. Flowers of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Mrs. Jackson of Little Rock, Ark., have been the guests of Mrs. M. H. Flowers at the Fireside School. Mrs. Jackson is a member of the Junior Class of Pearl High School. Both of these young ladies are very popular in their immediate vicinity.

Miss Luella Hoyle, the stenographer for the Folsom School, is having a vacation. During this time occurred a great event, when Miss Hoyle caused to be in becoming the bride of Mr. Oscar A. Childress. The wedding took place at the bride's home on the evening of August 28th, when a large company of friends gathered to witness the occasion. Mr. Childress is a senior at Meharry Medical College. All who knew the young couple extend to them their heartiest good wishes. For the present Mrs. Childress will continue with the Fireside School.

Miss Ada F. Morgan is making a short trip in the interest of the Fireside School. She will stop in St. Louis, attend the Convention and present the work there. From that point she will go to her home in Indiana for a part of her vacation.

Mrs. M. H. Phillips is in St. Louis, attending the Convention.

Miss Grace M. Eaton is in Little Rock and will attend the Convention there.

Miss Anna Morgan has gone to her home in Indiana where she will spend some weeks.

Miss Mamie Braden is stopping at Miss Eaton's home in Flat Rock for a short time.

### WOMEN'S NATIONAL PRAYER BATTALION.

Attention is called to the meetings of the Women's National Prayer Battalion which are held every Thursday morning at the colored Y. M. C. A. in the room of the Colored Branch of the Women's National Council of Defense. This is on Cedar Street on the street floor and plainly marked. The hour is ten o'clock and the meeting begins promptly and lasts one hour. Do you want to help the boys at the front by the way of God's throne? Here is your opportunity. Come to this meeting and unite in prayer for God's blessing and protection of the men in the service. This is a patriotic and religious duty. Those having relatives are especially urged to come though all who are interested in prayer have a hearty and cordial invitation.

### SPENT WEEK-END IN COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE.

Misses Mattie E. Moore and Libbie L. Davis left Nashville on the 31st to spend the week-end in Columbia, Tenn. Miss Moore is the week-end house guest of Miss E. T. P. Webster one of Columbia City School teachers. Miss Davis is the guest of her grandmother. Many socials have been planned for these young ladies. On Thursday they will motor out to Chestnut Ridge to spend the day with Miss Camille Fennell who is teaching out there. Miss Moore is a member of the Senior Class of Pearl High School. She was a member of the 1918 Debating Team of her school, a member of the Utopian Literary Society and secretary of the Senior Latin class. She is also a member of the famous Forward Quaker girls club, being a Big Sister and treasurer of that department. She is the efficient secretary of St. John A. M. E. Sunday School, a leading member of the church and choir, being treasurer of the choir. Miss Davis is a member of the Junior Class of Pearl High School.

and will return with pleasure to resume their studies.

### BISHOP AND MRS. PHILLIPS LEAVE FOR CALIFORNIA.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 6.—Bishop C. H. Phillips of Nashville, Tenn., and Miss Ella hooks of Cleveland, Ohio were married here Aug. 28th by Rev. J. W. Jacobs of Kansas City and Rev. S. L. Smith of St. Louis. The wedding ceremony was performed at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Phillips, Jr., and was witnessed by many personal friends of the Phillips family.

Miss Lady Emma Louise Phillips sweetly sang, "Beloved is My Father," after which Bishop Phillips accompanied by his son, Dr. C. H. Phillips and Miss Ella hooks with her brother Mr. Elmer Hooks of Detroit, Mich., wended their way to the nuptial altar where the happy union was effected. Mrs. Clifford Evans played Mendelssohn's Wedding March. Bishop and Mrs. Phillips received numerous letters and telegrams of congratulations and valuable tokens from friends all over the country.

Immediately after the marriage, Bishop and Mrs. Phillips and daughter, Lady Emma Louise, left for California and other points west. The house was beautifully decorated with palms and the season's choicest cut-flowers. The wedding ceremony was simple and was pronounced one of the most impressive and beautiful ever witnessed in St. Louis.

Among the out of town visitors present were Dr. J. T. Phillips, Mrs. J. H. Hale and Mrs. Bessie Morrison Nashville, Tenn.; Mr. Samuel Rivers, Chicago, Ill.; Mr. Elmer Hooks, Detroit, Mich.; Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Jacobs, Kansas City, Mo., and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bruner, Oklahoma City.

### MR. J. W. BOYD OF MASON, TENN.

Among the visitors to Nashville recently was Mr. J. W. Boyd of Mason, Tenn., who spent several days in the city on important business. He is one of the well known citizens of West Tennessee, hailing from Tipton County. He is an ex-member of the Tennessee Legislature where he served with distinction.

At one time he was elected to the state senate from his Senatorial District, but his friends claimed that even though the election on the face of the returns showed a majority, it is claimed that he was counted out. Mr. Boyd is a member of the old guards and came along in a time when the Negroes were active in state politics.

### MADAM RESSIE T. P. RHODA

Madam Bessie T. P. Rhoda visited Powder Plant Y. M. C. A. and was made welcome by Mr. Mobray, Mr. and Mrs. Reed, also many of the workers and their wives. Owing to Rhoda being in such a demand out there it was very necessary for her to pay them a visit. Miss F. Wright of Jefferson Street accompanied the Madam on both visits. Mr. Aha Thompson, father of Madam Rhoda had a joyful time at the United Trinitarian Baptist Association in Mt. Pleasant, Tenn. He returned last Monday night.

Can any one imagine that after the war he finds himself in possession of too many war bonds or war savings stamps?